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AIR

OELA-904

Chief, SR
Chief, WE
Chief of [redacted]

2 February 1953

REDSOX/CANTRIP
Operational Clearance for General Rastikis

REF: OELW-211

Attached is a statement, prepared by General RASTIKIS, furnishing information requested by Headquarters in paragraph 2 of reference.

[redacted]

Distribution
SR 2 w/attachment
WE 2 w/o attachment
Rastikis
[redacted] w/attachment

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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20 February 1953

MEMORANDUM

TO: FI/STC/SPB

FROM: Acting Chief, SR/2

SUBJECT: Stasys RASTIKIS

REF: Memorandum from STC/SPB dated 1 December 1952, subj: Stasys RASTIKIS

1. In answer to your memorandum in reference the attached report has been received from Subject. A translation of his report was made by [redacted]s Branch.

2. The attached report is transmitted so that final action can be completed on Subject's Operational Clearance.

CLL/lch

[redacted]

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1 Att

[redacted]

1953 January 23

In March 1941 I had to escape to Germany, because the Bolsheviks decided to arrest me. The Germans did not help in my escape.

On 22 June 1941 Col. SKIRPA established in Berlin a provisional Lithuanian Government. The Germans wanted to thwart the establishment of this government; they did not allow the chairman of the government, Mr. SKIRPA to go to Lithuania; but took me as a member of this government to Kaunas. There, the Lithuanian insurgents also proclaimed another provisional Lithuanian government, in which I was appointed Minister of Defense, in the same manner as in Berlin. The Germans, however, wanted to disrupt also that government. That task was assigned to Dr. Graefe, representative of the German Secret Police. I was the representative of the Lithuanian Government who conducted the negotiations with Dr. Graefe. The German task did not succeed; the Lithuanian government did not resign and the Germans themselves had to stop its activities. This happened on 5 August 1941.

At that time the German Commissioner-General, Dr. Renteln, proposed that I become the First General Adviser. I refused. Then, the Germans appointed Petras Kubiliunas to this position.

The Germans wanted to create a Lithuanian SS legion. They asked Gen. Kubiliunas; SS Gen. Vyecki proposed that I become the chief of that legion, but I refused. The Germans did not succeed to establish an SS Legion in Lithuania.

I, together with Gen. Plechavicius, was a candidate for the position of Chief of the local Lithuanian detachments, but rejected that position. Gen. Plechavicius was then appointed. I was later invited to join the detachment of Gen. Plechavicius, but I declined. I received Plechavicius' invitation through his chief of staff, Col. Urbonas.

During the German occupation, I was aquainted with the German Military Commandants in Kaunas, the Austrian Major General V. Pohl and the German Major General Just. They were both very favorable to the Lithuanians. Through them I managed to defend some Lithuanian interests.

The Germans wanted my active participation in the Lithuanian Conference to be held in Kaunas. I declined to participate. They also wanted to take me away by force (Baron von der Kopp and Baron von der Recke) but I managed to escape from them.

In the fall of 1944, the German police asked me to come from Magdeburg, where I worked in a plant, to Berlin. There, the Germans told me that they wanted to draft the Lithuanians residing in Germany into the German army, using as a medium Dr. Paukstys and the Lithuanian General Advisers. I was offered to become the Commander-in-Chief of that Army, but I refused.

When I escaped from a Bolshevik arrest to the country, the NKVD took over my house, and my wife and children were held under house arrest for about 2 weeks. Later, when I managed to escape to Germany, the Russians arrested my wife and put her in the Kaunas prison. The children remained with the parents of my wife in a village.

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On 14 June 1941 the children together with my wife's parents were deported to Siberia.

When I lived in Los Angeles, Mr. Zimantas informed me that my children were at that time in Lithuania and that during a new wave of deportations of Lithuanians to Siberia, the children were taken by the partisans and kept under their care. Since that time I received no news.

I was taken war prisoner after being seriously wounded, on 27 August 1919. I was kept in the hospitals of Dvinsk, Veliki Luki, Rybinsk (Yaroslav Gubernija) 22nd evacuation hospital) and in the Home for war invalids at Tula.

Later, I was kept at a concentration camp at Tula (/in Russia/ camp for forced labor attached to Tula District Chuka). The camp commandant was the chekist Kiselev. He was forcing the PWs to go to work. I, as a wounded prisoner (I could not walk without the help of a crutch), had been placed for some time to work at the Tula Gubplenbezh (District Administration for PW and Refugee Affairs). The chief of the administration was acertain SPAK, a White-Russian communist; his assistant was Hoak, a Czech communist who fell into Russian captivity.

Before returning to Lithuania, I spent a few more months in a Moscow prison which was located at the St. Andrius Monastery.

In the spring of 1921 an exchange of political prisoners between USSR and Lithuania took place.

Together with me the following prisoners returned to Lithuania: Vladas Didziokas (?), Stepanavicius, Lengaitis, Genbickas, Jacovicius an others.

I described in detail my experiences in captivity in the book "War Archives, Volume 3; my article there is entitled: <u>20 months in Bolshevik captivity</u>.

/Signed/ St. Rastikis